

Relayed by GLOBALink - The International Tobacco-Control Network

Mr Thomas M Dubois  
Director, Corporate Affairs  
Philip Morris Australia

Dear Mr Dubois,

I received your letter today where you refer me to the statement on Philip Morris' current website concerning your parent company's position on smoking and health.

Many of my colleagues understand the message on your website to mean that Philip Morris agrees with the fact that there is overwhelming consensus in the medical and scientific community that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer and other diseases. However, we believe that this is no different to (for example) the backpacker serial killer Ivan Milat saying, with hand on his heart, that he agrees that there exists an overwhelming consensus of evidence that he killed seven young people. This of course does not preclude him continuing to say "I am innocent of murder". All he's doing is acknowledging that this consensus exists, just as PM is acknowledging the consensus about smoking and health among scientists.

So, to cut to the chase, without recourse to the shelter provided by your company's frankly robotic "desire for a single, consistent public health message" (you're all told to put this in these sort of letters, right?) would you please answer "yes" or "no" to the following question:

"Does Philip Morris agree that cigarettes manufactured and sold by Philip Morris cause lung cancer in many of those who smoke them?" A "yes" or a "no" will do, thanks.

I have posted this note to 2700 interested subscribers to the Globalink tobacco control network

While I have your attention, would you be so kind to send me a photograph of yourself that I can place on my website page that depicts

tobacco industry executives?

Yours sincerely

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